

~~WILLIAM HARRISON'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND~~

TRUE-BLUE:
OR, A
LETTER
TO THE
GENTLEMEN
OF
The OLD INTEREST in the County
of Oxford.

~~WILLIAM HARRISON'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND~~

THE
HISTORICAL
AND
GEOGRAPHICAL
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
COUNTY OF
SURREY
IN THE
SEVENTEENTH
CENTURY

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TRUE-BLUE:
OR, A
LETTER
TO THE
GENTLEMEN
OF THE
OLD INTEREST
IN THE
County of OXFORD.

By an A———N.

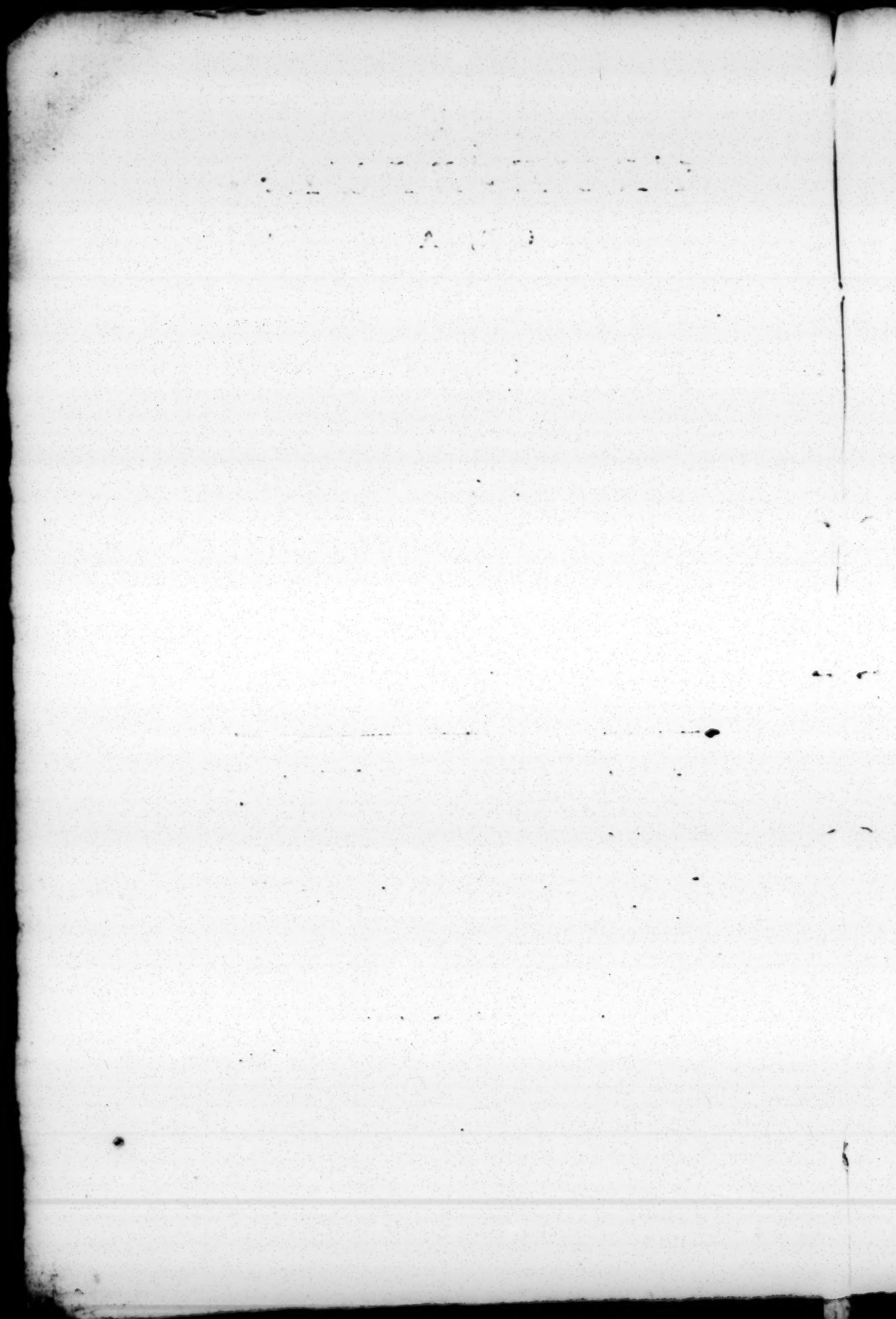
Turpi secernis Honestum.

*Nunquam te fallant Animi sub vulpe la-
tentes.* Hor.

L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COOPER in Pater-
noster Row. M.DCC.LIV.







A
L E T T E R
T O T H E
G E N T L E M E N
O F T H E
O L D I N T E R E S T, &c.

G E N T L E M E N,

 S no Man has more the
Interest of *England* at
Heart than I have, or
wishes Success more
warmly to the Party he espouses,
I cannot omit the Opportunity of
laying a few Thoughts before
you, at a Time when your *late*

A 2 Election

Election and *present* Petition are the Subjects of every Conversation in Town, and as a *True-blue*, I am well assured, I stand in need of no *other Excuse* for the Liberty I take, or want any *farther Recommendation* to your *Favour* or *Attention*. It was my Happiness, Gentlemen (for I must call it so) to be educated in *True-blue* Principles from my Infancy: My Father and Grandfather were both *True-blues*, tho' I cannot directly say, that either of them particularly wore a *Blue Ribbon*, this being a Distinction they never aspired to, being plain, honest Country-gentlemen, who rejoiced in doing all the Service they could to the Nation, without being marked out to public View,
and

and privately enjoyed the Good they did, and felt it ; but though by these Means, they were not so *conspicuous* as others of the same Principles, yet they laboured as incessantly as the rest, in promoting every Measure, and bringing about every End, that could in the least contribute to the *Welfare* of the Kingdom, the *sole* Object our Party ever had in View, and *have* to this Day:

My Father, as all Men have their Foibles, but too frequently made the Party the Subject of his Discourse ; and being naturally warm, inveighed with great Bitterness against all others of a different way of thinking ; this turn of Mind he was supposed to have improved in the *Army* where he

A 3 served

served abroad, and which increas-
 ing as he grew old, gained him
 the Name of the *True-blue* Cap-
 tain, or Captain *True-blue*. From
 him it was, I early imbibed
 the Principles of *True-bluisim*
 I now entertain; from him
 it was, I learned the *true*
 Nature of our *Constitution*; the
true Defenders of which were
 always in his Style denominated
True-blues; and I have ever heard
 him speak with great Reverence
 of the illustrious HAMPDEN, who,
 according to him, was the first
True-blue in this Kingdom.
 Having frequently asked him for
 the *Origin* of the Word, I could
 never get a more particular De-
 finition, than that as they had
 always been Men of *invariable*
 Prin-

Principles, had ever acted *consistently* with themselves, and at all times protected the *Liberties* and *Rights* of the People, when invaded, with an *invincible* Uniformity, and *determined* Zeal, they might possibly have derived their Distinction from the *Old Proverb*, *True-blue never stains*, which conveyed an Idea of *Honesty* and *Perseverance*, and therefore the more likely to be adopted by Men above *Temptation*; Men resolute in the Cause of *Virtue*, and *inspired* by a Love of Freedom. Lord RUSSEL was his *second* Favourite upon the *True-blue* List: I have heard him lament that Nobleman's Death with a more than common Concern; indeed he

he feldom mentioned him with-
 out Tears in his Eyes, “ *George*,
 “ says he, (for that is my Name,
 “ it being about the Year 1714,
 “ when I was born, at which
 “ Time this Name began to be
 “ in great Esteem, as it has
 “ continued to be ever since)
 “ *George*, says he, that Noble-
 “ man is amongst the first who
 “ have done Honour to this
 “ Nation; it was he who
 “ taught the Patriots of his
 “ Age the *Danger* impend-
 “ ing o’er the *Public Weal*
 “ from that alarming Circum-
 “ stance of a Popish Heir to a
 “ Protestant Crown, a *Son* of
 “ *Rome* succeeding to the *Throne*
 “ of *England*: He *foresaw* the
 “ Danger, he *warned* the Na-
 “ tion,

“ tion, he try’d to *rescue* his
 “ poor Countrymen, he nobly
 “ *perished* in the Attempt. The
 “ Event proclaimed his Judg-
 “ ment, as the Scaffold did his
 “ Bravery ; Misery and Confu-
 “ sion, Slavery and Violence of
 “ every kind, with Giant Steps
 “ advanced upon the Land ; all
 “ Scenes of Joy were changed
 “ for those of Mourning, and
 “ Liberty lay gasping. Then
 “ roused by the Example he had
 “ set, arose the *True-blue Bi-*
 “ *shops* ; once more *revived* our
 “ *honest* Party ; the *Bishops*
 “ led the Way, we *drew* the
 “ Sword, and saved the Nation.”

My Father never failed upon
 these Occasions, to exhort me to
 be ever *steady* to the illustrious

B

Party

Party who professed *these* Principles, and often told me it was more Honour to an *Englishman* to be a *True-blue*, than to be a *Peer*. I readily agreed with him, and have ever followed his Example, in declaring myself a *determined* Enemy to every *Invader* of our *Constitution*, and to every *infatuated* Slave, that would impose a *Catholic* King upon a *Protestant* People. As I am persuaded these are the prevailing Sentiments of all the *True-blues* of this Kingdom, and of the County of *Oxford* in particular : I shall be proud of ever being thought a *True-blue*, and a Member of that Body ; but as I shall always *act* as one, so will I always *speak* as one, and therefore

fore I cannot help observing to you, Gentlemen, that I have taken great *Offence*, and so have *many more* of our *Brethren*, at the Term you have distinguished Yourself by, namely, as *Supporters* of the *Old Interest*, and as *fighting* under the *Banner* of the *Old Interest*. This Distinction, give me leave to tell you Gentlemen, has embarrassed you, Friends, and I know not whether it may not be said to be *unintelligible*, at least it conveys two Meanings so very *different* from each other, and is so very applicable to either, that it makes it hard to tell *which Side* you are of; for I will venture to say, that all the *sensible* Men throughout the

Kingdom either understand by
the Term *Old Interest*,

The OLD INTEREST of *England*,

OR,

The OLD JACOBITE *Interest*.

This is the only Sense that Men in
general *have formed* of it, or *can*
form with any *Propriety*; to both
which I shall particularly speak.

If by the Term, *Old Interest*,
is meant the *Old Interest* of *Eng-*
land, then *those* Gentlemen can
be *only* said to be of the *Old*
Interest, who are Friends to the
Government as by *Law* establish-
ed; who do all they can to *pre-*
serve the Constitution in *Church*
and *State*; who to the utmost
maintain the Prerogative of the
Prince, and the *Liberties* of the
People,

People, who are equally averſe
 to the *Strengthening* the one, and
 the *Weakening* the other, and
 who on all Occaſions would op-
 poſe any *Infringements* that
 might be made upon the *Pro-
 perty*, the *Security*, the *Life* of
 the Subject. *Theſe* Gentlemen
 then, and *theſe only* can, with
 any *Propriety*, be ſaid to be the
Gentlemen of the *Old Intereſt* of
England, for the *Intereſt* of
England is ever the ſame; as an
Island, we are happily *diveſted*
 of thoſe *Fears*, which the
Greatneſs of any *neighbouring*
Prince might create in us;
 as a *Maritime Power*, we
 are not only *equal*, but even
ſuperior to every other *State* or
Sovereign about us, ſo that we
 have

have little or no Danger from *abroad*, and whenever our Constitution be overturned, it must be done by Enemies *at home*; the *Chains* of *Slavery* must be forged amongst *ourselves*, and they are *Englishmen* alone, that can deprive *Englishmen* of their *Liberty*. History cannot produce a *Sovereign* established upon the *Throne* of these Kingdoms by a *foreign* Force, since *William the First*, that is, since the Time that the *divided States* of *Britain* were formed into *one regular monarchical* Government, the *best* form of Government, not only prevailing at this Day in the World, but that ever did prevail, of which a very small Acquaintance with the *Roman* Writers

Writers will convince any attentive Reader, and *Rome* was thought to be one of the most *perfect* States amongst the *Ancients* while it enjoyed its *Freedom*: No *History* or *Annals* of *England* can produce an Instance of *this* Sort with respect to *Foreigners*, but many may be brought of *domestic* Disturbances, of Usurpations, of Encroachments, of Innovations upon the Rights of the People by our *own Countrymen*, at all which Times the *Opposers* of these *Acts* of *Violence*, were justly esteemed the *Friends* of the *Old Interest* of *England*, that is, in other Words, the *Preservers* of the *Constitution*. If then, by the *Gentlemen* of the *Old Interest* of
Oxford,

Oxford, are meant the *Gentlemen* of the *Old Interest* of *England*, then is there a Term of *Distinction* given that has no *Difference* : You have taken a Word to denote *one Party* that is equally applicable to *both*, for are you *Friends* to the *Constitution*, so are your *Antagonists* ; Are you *Friends* to the *King*, so are they ; the *latter* indeed ought to be implied in the *former*, for your being *Friends* to the *Constitution* should necessarily make you *Enemies* to the *Family* which has *taken* every *Opportunity* to *destroy* it. Are you *Friends* to the *Religion* of your Country, to the *Trade* and *Commerce* of your Country, so are *they* ; have they not been equally zealous in *maintaining* the
one,

one, and *improving* the *other* ; if so, and I believe you will not any of you advance the *contrary*, then is the *Old Interest* of *England* the *New Interest* of *Oxford*, and you have been *inflaming* and *imbroiling* a whole County for upwards of two Years in *opposing* Principles you all *agree* in, or in Support of an *Interest* both *Sides* are *unanimous* to assert, namely, the *true Interest* of your Country, the *true Old Interest* of *England*.

I shall now consider the *second* Meaning, an *invidious* one indeed, and which I hope but *few* among you, Gentlemen, if *any*, would *wish* to have applied to your *favourite* Distinction.

C

If

If by the *Old Interest*, you mean the *Old Jacobite Interest*, I must then indeed allow the *Term* to be *perfectly intelligible*, and it is very easy to separate the *New Interest* from the *Old*; The *Friends* of the *New Interest* are all avowedly attached to the *present Royal Family*, and will never *abandon* them till they pursue the *same Measures*, that have recommended the *glorious Reign of King James*, so justly to the *Esteem* of his *generous Adherents*; that is, till they *break* through every *Fence* our *Ancestors* have opposed to *arbitrary Power*, *destroy* all our *Rights* and *Privileges*, *invade* our *Properties*, *behead* our *Nobles*, *imprison* our *Bishops*, *turn*
our

our Judges from the *Bench*, bring *Priests* and *Confessors* to the *Council*, and *dispatch Ambassadors* to the *Pope*; then indeed 'tis possible the *Supporters* of the *New Interest* may turn *Rebels* to their *King*, in order to *preserve* their Country. But is it possible, Gentlemen, that there should be *such an Interest* among you? Your Friends would be much deceived, for many who have joined you, did it from *other Expectations*; half of them would forsake you immediately, should you avow *those Principles*; for I will tell you a Thing which perhaps you may not all know, that the *King* is perhaps the most *popular* Man of any in the Kingdom: The *True-*

blues would leave you to a Man,
 for no *True-blue* can be a *Jacobite*;
 there is not an Enemy to
 King *George* amongst them, nor
 can be; for as the *Safety* and
Defence of the *Constitution* is the
fundamental Rule of all their
 Actions, they cannot but *honour*
 and *love* that *Prince*, who in all
 his Reign has studied to *preserve*
 and *secure* it; who has ruled the
 Nation with an unimpeached In-
 tegrity; upon the Throne

Hath borne his Faculties so meek, hath been
 So clear in his great Office, that his Virtues
 Would plead like Angels trumpet-tongu'd against
 The deep Damnation of his taking off.

Happy in such a Sovereign, what
folly, what *Madness* is it but to
 wish

wish *another*? What can *another* Prince do more for us? Can we be more the *free People* we are by changing? Shall we live more *uncontrouled* than at present? It is impossible. Supposing a *Vacancy* in the Throne, whom could we wish for a *Successor*, but *such another*? Why then are we discontented, when in the Possession of this *invaluable* Blessing, a Sovereign, whose *Actions* call for *universal Applause*, and whose *Virtues* his Heirs must *imitate*, if they would endear themselves to the *British* Nation. Was the *Pretender* to his Throne, a Man of equally approved *Merit*, had he *Wisdom*, *Goodness*, *Honour*, *Courage*, whence would

arise the Benefit of a *Change*? Where lies the Advantage to the Kingdom? Had he Wisdom to *direct* our public Measures, Goodness to relieve our public Wants, Honour never to *deceive* us, and Courage ever to protect us? Do not all these Virtues center in the *Royal* Bosom of our *Prince* upon the *Throne*? And would it not be the *Extravagance* of *Folly* to throw the whole *Kingdom* into *Confusion*, let loose the Dogs of *Rapine*, bring *Fire* and *Sword* upon the *Land*, that after all the *Murders*, *Massacres*, and *Devastations* of a *Civil War*, we may gain a *new* King, *as good*, but *no better* than our *old* One? This is an apparent Absurdity even upon

on

on the *supposed Certainty* of our changing for a King *as good*. But what can we think of those Men, who would propose to us a Change from a Prince of *acknowledged Virtue*, to one whose Principles are diametrically opposite to the Welfare of the Common-weal, and who not only is not *likely* to make us a *good* Sovereign, but must *evidently* make a *very bad* one; of a *disputed* Birth, of a *different* Religion from his *People*, educated amongst our most *natural*, as well as most *bitter* Enemies, dependent on a Prince *arbitrary* in his *own* Kingdom, and jealous of Liberty and Freedom in *any other*; if not spurious, descended of a *Family*, who have all along
at-

attempted a despotic Power, one of them in particular, after an Exile of twelve Years, restored to the Sovereignty of these Realms, and receiving daily Obligations from an uncommon Munificence in his People, was, from the Hour he became their King, plotting and contriving to enslave them; a Pensioner of France during his whole Reign, ungrateful to his Subjects, forgetful of his Friends, and despised by the very Enemies he courted; his pretended Father, a Tyrant beyond all Bounds; invading every Branch of the Constitution he swore to defend; void of Sincerity and Honour, reserving ever to himself a different Meaning in all his Words from what they seemed to

to bear ; when *fright'ned*, promising *Redress* for all *Acts* of *Oppression* when his *Fears* subsided, *uneasy* till he *oppressed* again. From a *Man* so *descended*, so *circumstanced*, so *educated*, what have his *deluded* Advocates to expect, but a *Repetition* of the same *horrid Scenes*, from which nothing can relieve them but another *glorious Revolution* like that of 88 ? Add to this, the *known* Character of this *Son* of *Rome* ; a *Man* so *little* deserving of a *Throne*, that many of his *Adherents* scruple not to allow him *better qualified* for a *Convent* ; his Excess of *Bigotry* and *Superstition* might *advance* the *Abbot*, but as infallibly would *disgrace* the *King*. That he
D should

should have *some* Friends amongst the *Catholicks* is not strange, for it is natural for *them* to wish to have a Sovereign of their *own Religion*, and *arbitrary Power* is so strongly blended with Popery, that they do not *feel* the Effects of it in *equal Proportion* with their *Countrymen*; for, in fact, every *Roman Catholick* is a *Slave* to his *Priest*, and it is not extraordinary that a Man who will submit to be a Slave to his Priest, should submit to *wear* the *Chains* of his *Prince*: But that there should be *Protestants* who desire to see him *established* in these Kingdoms, is a Thing so very *unnatural* that it is scarcely *credible*; I shall take the Liberty, Gentlemen, on this Occasion,
to

to remind you of Part of the Speech of the Lord *Cowper*, at the Condemnation of some of the *attainted Lords* in the Rebellion of 1715 ; that Great Man, after describing the *Wickedness* of that Rebellion in general, proceeds thus :

“ I must be so just to such of
 “ your Lordships as profess the
 “ Religion of the Church of
 “ *Rome*, that you had one Temp-
 “ tation, and that a great one,
 “ to engage you in this Treason,
 “ which the others had not ; in
 “ that ’twas evident, Success on
 “ your Part must for ever have
 “ established *Popery* in this King-
 “ dom, and that probably you
 D 2 “ could

“ could never have again so fair
“ an Opportunity.

“ But then, good God ! how
“ must those *Protestants* be co-
“ vered with Confusion, who en-
“ tered into the same Measures,
“ without so much as *capitulat-*
“ *ing for their Religion*, (that ever
“ I could find from any Exami-
“ nation, I have seen or heard) or
“ so much as *requiring*, much
“ less *obtaining, a frail Promise*
“ that it should be preserved, or
“ *even tolerated.*”

What an Account is this? *Pro-*
testants so *indifferent*, so *luke-*
warm to their Religion, as to be
inviting, aiding, drawing the
Sword for its most *inveterate Foe*,
with-

without even *asking* an Assurance of being *allowed* the *Use* of it! Tories, the *first* to alarm the Nation with the *Danger* of the *Church*, fighting for one who would *exult* in its *Destruction*!

But of those *infatuated Enemies* of their *Country*, the *Favourers* of the *late* unnatural Rebellion, if there should still be left some small *contemptible Remains* among you, I would have them asked, with *what Grace* they can now *acknowledge* these *detestable* Principles, when the Opportunity is *over* of acting in *defence* of them; for every Man of *true Courage* will act in defence of his Principles, or why do they not *blush* to own a King whom they
dared

dared not *join*, when his *Standard* called them to the *Field*?
 A *Standard* set up *expresly* to
 claim the *Assistance* of his *Friends*,
 to collect all the *Rascality* of *Jacobitism* together; an *Army*, such
 as it was, *viçtorious*; his *Son* ad-
 vancing, in a *kind of Triumph*,
 into the *Kingdom*; our *Sovereign's* *Troops abroad*, and the
Nation throughout in an *Alarm*?
 This was the *Time* to have *pro-*
claimed his *Right Divine*; his
Hereditary, indefeasable Right;
 this was the *glorious Opportunity*
 for *Treason* to have *snatched*:
 Why are your *Swords undrawn*,
 your *Levies* not on the *march* to
 meet your *gracious Deliverer*?

Vos hinc mutatis descendite partibus, eja!

Quid statis?—nolint, atqui licet esse beatis.

For shame then, cease to *trumpet* out *Sedition* against the *mild Government* that *protects* you, to *cry up* a *Right* that you dare not *contend for* to affect *Allegiance* to a *Prince* in whose *Favour* you would not *act*, and whose *Cause* you feared to *espouse*, even in the *Time* of its *Prosperity*; what can He think of such *degenerate* *Partisans*, but that if you were *really oppressed*, nay to the very *Brink* of *Destruction*, that you were not *worth* the *saving*. But *whence* arose these *Fears*, and this *universal*

versal Dread among you? Shall I
 tell you, *Gentlemen*; it was not
 from the *Army* of our *gallant*
Monarch, for the greatest Part of
 it was *abroad*; it was not from
Apprehensions of a *foreign Force*,
 for thanks to our good Allies the
Dutch, they sent us *Troops* that
 could not *fight*, *Auxiliaries* that
 could not *aid*; but I will tell you
Gentlemen, what it was you
 fear'd; the *general Love* of the
People for the *King*, the *Affec-*
tion the *Nation* most *deservedly*
 entertained for his *Majesty*, who
 wanted *no Soldiers* to defend his
Royal Person, while the *Hearts* of
 his *Subjects* were his own; *His*
Friends were not *idle*, they slept
 not, like the *Friends* of *Popery*,
 nor feared to own the *Sovereign*
 they

they adored; *suspected Dangers* were attended with *fresh Assurances* of their *Loyalty* and *determined Resolution* to stand by Him; *Defeats* brought *Strength* to his Cause, by *redoubling* the *Ardor* of his *People*; the Nation *pressed forward* to his Succour; each *Subject* was a *Soldier*, even the *Church* sent out *Warriors* in his Support, and that *great good Man*, the *Archbishop* of the *invaded Province*, confined not himself to *Prayers* and *imploring Benediction* from Heaven, but acted in consort with *Men of Arms* in his Behalf. Here was the *Alarm* to your *Hopes*, you found your *Cause* was *bad*, and this *universal Spirit* of *Affection* to one of the *best* of Kings, struck

E Terror

Terrour to all the *lily-liver'd Traitors* in his Dominions. The *Halter* was before their Eyes; and the greatest among them, tho' they liked the *Fool* that *France* had sent them too well not to wish Success to him, yet ventured not to run the Risque of his *Defeat*; however they drank his *Health*, good Man! and as far as *talking Treason* was of Service to him, that they did *cheerfully* and *willingly*, and so left their *King* and his *Cause* to the Care of *Heaven*. It is said of this *Adventurer*, and the *only sensible* thing I ever heard reported of him, that upon his *Retreat* from *Derby*, he took a *Bumper* and drank to the *Health* of his *Friends* in *England*; and now, says he, *I have*
done

done as much for them, as they ever did for me ; and this I take to be a public *Acknowledgment* of the *Dependence* and *Confidence* he had in *them* and the *Party*. I have particularly mentioned this *Anecdote* of their *Chief*, in order to give a Piece of *Advice* to the few *Followers* he still has, whom as *Countrymen* I cannot but have a *Regard* for, that since *their Prince* seems to have given up them, (as it appears by this he has) and *they* have very plainly given up *their Prince*, suppose they were to *reconcile* themselves a little to a *Desire* of *Liberty*, and to a *King* who is not quite so willing as their own to oppress and ruin them, and wean themselves from that extravagant *Fondness* for
Slavery

Slavery and Church - Tyranny, and become good Subjects to a good Government, like the *Bulk* of their Countrymen ; in such a case, I do believe, upon *Experiment* they would soon find themselves as *happy* and *easy* as they are *at present* ; and as a *farther* Encouragement I will take upon me to declare, that the Name of King *George* will not *sour* the *Claret* of any one *Wine-Merchant* in *England* ; for I have *drank* *his Health* in most of the *Importations* for these *six* and *twenty* Years past, and it *agreed* with me *perfectly well*, and never *stuck* in *my Throat* once.

And now, *Gentlemen*, having spoke particularly to the *two only* Meanings the Term *Old Interest*
can

can possibly imply, as a *True-blue* warm in one *Old Interest*, that of my *Country*, I would recommend to you by all means to *abandon* so *invidious* a Distinction, and if you are *disposed* to make all the *Opposition* you can to the *Friends* of the *Ministry*, and the *Amiable* Descendant of one of the *greatest* Men this *Kingdom* ever *produced*, and whose Memory, *immortal* every where, is more *particularly* preserved in the *County* of *Oxford*, and that by the *Unanimous Voice* of an *obliged* People; if *so disposed*, you would do well to take upon *your Party* some *less offensive* Denomination, and not to call down *Reflections* upon your *Principles* by so *ambiguous* and *doubtful* a Title, remember-

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remem'ring that while it may be
taken in the best Sense, it also
may be taken in the very worst;
and while you mean to be thought
the true Friends of your King and
Country, you may with equal Pro-
priety be deemed to be the deter-
mined Enemies of both. I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

London,
Dec. 3, 1754.

An A—m

